

# VERNON



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



**VERNON  
PARISH**

## Vernon Parish

**Vernon Parish  
Tourism and Recreation Commission**  
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Public Health**  
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Regional Administrator  
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### History<sup>1</sup>

Vernon Parish, named after George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, was created by an act of the Louisiana Legislature on March 30, 1871, from portions of the parishes of Natchitoches, Rapides, and Sabine.

### Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>

With the abundance of trees in Vernon Parish, a nature-lover can walk through the many forested areas to his/her heart's delight. Any water-sports enthusiast can find fun at Vernon Lake, Anacoco Lake or world-famous Toledo Bend Reservoir.

History buffs can browse through the Museum of West Louisiana on South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Leesville, then stroll up the street to the Vernon Parish Courthouse. Kisatchie National Forest is teeming with serenity at Little Cypress Pond, Fullerton Lake or Kisatchie Hills Wilderness Areas.



**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... Leesville<sup>1</sup>

### Major Cities (over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>

Fort Polk	
1990 .....	N/A
1997 (estimate) .....	16,518
Leesville	
1990 .....	7,638
1997 (estimate) .....	7,604

### Parish Population<sup>2</sup>

1990 .....	55,882
1997 (estimate) .....	47,229

### Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)<sup>6</sup>

White .....	74%
African American .....	22%
Other .....	4%
Male .....	56%
Female .....	44%
Population age 0-4 .....	10%
Populations age 65 & over .....	6%



## Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>

Average elevation .....	330 ft.
Land area in square miles .....	1,328.5
Water area in square miles <sup>4</sup> .....	13.1

## Climate<sup>2</sup>

Average temperatures	
Annual .....	67°
January .....	52°
July .....	80°
Annual average rainfall .....	63.1 in.

## Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>

Civilian .....	17,150
Employed .....	15,900
Unemployed .....	1,250
Unemployment .....	7.3%

## Agriculture<sup>1</sup>

Timber, vegetable and dairy farming and beef cattle.

## Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup>

(within one hour commute)

Louisiana College, Pineville  
Louisiana State University, Alexandria  
Northwestern State University, Leesville  
Northwestern State University,  
Natchitoches

## Public Libraries<sup>5</sup> ..... 3

### References

- <sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- <sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- <sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>

## Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>

Less than 5th grade	2.0%
High school graduate or higher	76.9%
Some college or higher	37.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	10.3%

## Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>

<b>Private Employers</b>	
Wal-Mart (Discount Retailer)	227
Byrd Regional Hospital (Medical)	225
Community Care Center of Leesville (Elderly Care)	120
<b>Public Employers</b>	
Fort Polk-JRTC (Army Base)	4,700
Vernon Parish School Board (Education)	1,454
Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital (Medical)	401

## Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) <sup>7</sup>	18.3%
Children under age 18 in poverty <sup>7</sup>	23.9%
Per capita income (1996) <sup>8</sup>	\$14,601



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<sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



**Region 1**

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

**Region 2**

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

**Region 3**

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

**Region 4**

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermilion

**Region 5**

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

**Region 6**

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn

**Region 7**

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

**Region 8**

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

**Region 9**

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington